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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Animal Health and Welfare*

21 - 22 November 2019

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Follow-up concerning the *"Final report of the EFTA's Surveillance Authority's mission to Norway from 20 to 29 May 2019 in order to evaluate animal health controls in relation to aquaculture"*.

The Norwegian CVO gave an update on progress in relation to the corrective actions which are currently being put in place in Norway in response to the findings from the audit carried out by the EFTA Surveillance Authority in May. It was confirmed that the voluntary ban on certification of live aquaculture animals will remain in place until all the recommendations made by the Authority have been satisfactorily addressed. It was also confirmed that the Norwegian Authorities are aware that they have not been notifying disease outbreaks in accordance with Directive 82/894, but future compliance with this legislation was assured.

A.03 Information on African swine fever in Member States.

Romania, Lithuania and Poland provided an update on ASF situation. Spain and Germany gave presentations on ASF preparedness.

A.04 Information on the evaluation procedure of eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2020 and following years and 2019 reallocation exercise.

The outcome of the evaluation procedure of eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by the Member States for EU co-financing in 2020 was presented for information, with the list of the programmes technically approved and the preliminary amount allocated for each programme. Member States raised several questions mainly concerning the state of play of the revision of the new unit costs and ASF funding. The budget related to the 2019 reallocation exercise was also presented.

A.05 Declaration from France concerning commencement of a surveillance program regarding VHS and IHN in a zone comprising the the whole water catchment of the river Yères from the sources to the estuary in the department of Seine-Maritime (76) and the fish farm “Pisciculture de Criel”.

Please see summarized report under Point A.07.

A.06 Declaration from France concerning commencement of a surveillance program regarding VHS and IHN in a dependent compartment comprising the Udon river in the department of Orne (61)and the fish farm “Pisciculture de Chanteloup” .

Please see summarized report under Point A.07.

A.07 Declaration from France concerning commencement of a surveillance program regarding VHS and IHN in a dependent compartment comprising the upper parts of the Touges river in the departments of Calvados (14) and Orne (61) and the fish farm “Pisciculture de Fervaques”.

The three declarations above comply with the format and data requirements of the Commission Decision 2009/177/EC. Each declaration is published on the relevant EU Commission website:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en with link to the relevant website of French authorities: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/maladies-des-animaux-aquatiques>.

A.08 Declaration from Slovenia in relation to freedom from VHS/IHN in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm "Kisovec".

The declaration complies with the format and data requirements of Commission Decisions 2009/177/EC and 2001/183/EC respectively. The corresponding surveillance program was declared in in the PAFF meeting on 13-14 September 2016. The declaration is published on the relevant EU Commission website:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en with link to the relevant website of Slovenian authorities: <https://www.gov.si/zbirke/storitve/postopek-za-pridobitev-zdravstvenega-statusa-prost-bolezni/>.

A.09 Update on the EU Animal Welfare Platform and its activities.

The Commission presented the outcomes of the two meetings of the EU Animal Welfare Platform that took place in 2019. One Member State welcomed the presentation and asked if the Commission had intention to use the platform for preparing legislation to phase out the castration of piglets. The Member State delegate also wanted to know, if the Commission had done anything after the Platform debate on abandoned horses. The Commission took note of the suggestions on pig castration, mentioning on that occasion the pilot project concluded last year on best practices to promote the meat from uncastrated (or immunocastrated) pigs. Best practices are published on the website of the Commission and there is an ongoing contract to disseminate them. Regarding abandoned horses the Commission declared that due to other priorities, until now the topic has not been considered for action.

A.10 2018 Annual report on avian influenza surveillance in poultry and wild birds in the EU.

The EFSA representative presented the European Union results of the avian influenza surveillance in poultry and wild birds for year 2018. The results included the outcome of testing of poultry and wild birds for serology and virology.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in the Union.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The draft Decision amending the current ASF regionalisation was presented for a vote by the Commission. This review of regionalisation measures takes into account the changes in the epidemiological situation of ASF in Poland and the high risk of ASF in Greece.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to Union notification, Union reporting, the computerised information system, eradication programmes and the disease-free status.

The amendments made in the updated draft Implementing Regulation based on the discussion during the previous Working Group meeting on 30 September 2019 and on the Member States' written comments were presented and explained in detail by the Commission and some more changes were proposed to the Annexes. Member States were invited to give their views and suggestions on the updated document and provide further requests for modifications (particularly with regard to the Annexes) by 5 December 2019.

M.01 Information from the Commission on the state of play of the Animal Health Law.

Presentation of the latest developments and the state of play of development and adoption of legal acts complementing the Animal Health Law and a short outline of other related activities planned by the Commission.

M.02 Information from France on Aujeszky's disease.

France informed about the results of the epidemiological investigations following two outbreaks of Aujeszky's disease, and the measures taken to clean up the outbreaks.

M.03 Information from Germany on outbreaks of KHV in 2 establishments.

Germany provided information regarding two recent outbreaks of Koi Herpes virus (KHV) in Saxony and Brandenburg respectively. The outbreaks are handled in compliance with relevant legislation which includes killing of fish in infected ponds and subsequent cleaning and disinfection and fallowing. Epidemiological investigation is ongoing, but has so far been inconclusive. No question raised from Member States nor the Commission.